of essential commodities at reasonable prices. These steps taken by the Government have generally stabilized the prices.

Sale of products on MRP

1220. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several products including in the field of electronics, computer, stationery, food items, etc. are being sold much below the MRP that they carry;

(b) whether this does not render the much publicized campaigning regarding MRP redundant; and

(c) the steps taken so far/proposed by Government to ensure that MRP remains the real selling price or just close to it so that the consumer gets a fair idea of the selling price of any commodity and the consumers are not cheated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The declaration of MRP on packaged commodity is decided by the manufacturer taking into various factors. As per the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, it is obligatory on the part of the retail dealer not to sell above the MRP declared on the package. The consumer awareness campaign is aimed at educating the consumer to not to pay more than the MRP and also to bargain on the MRP to get lower price.

(c) In order to ensure that manufacturers print MRP that have relationship with the cost of production/intended sale price, the Government have amended the Central Excise Act, 1944 to provide for levy of Excise duty on the basis of MRP declared on the package in respect of notified commodities.